February 1950

2'- Monthly

BUSINESS

The Journal of Management in Industry





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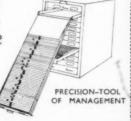
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saves clerical time

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Opportunity knocks as new Tax Year approaches

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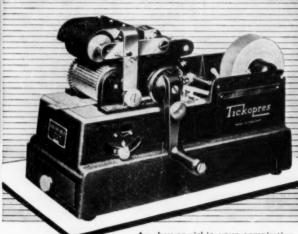
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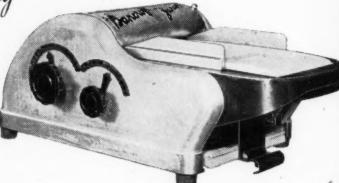
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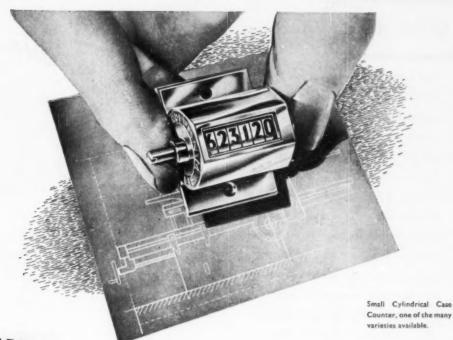
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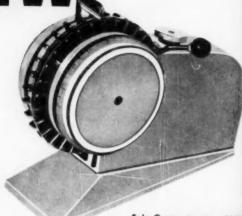
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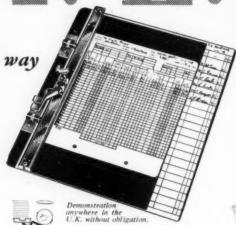
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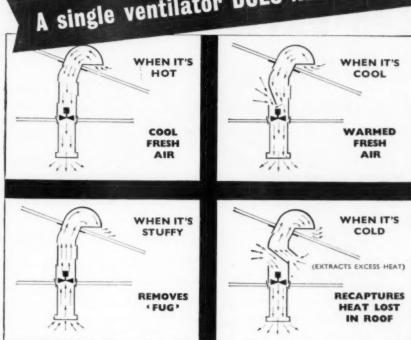
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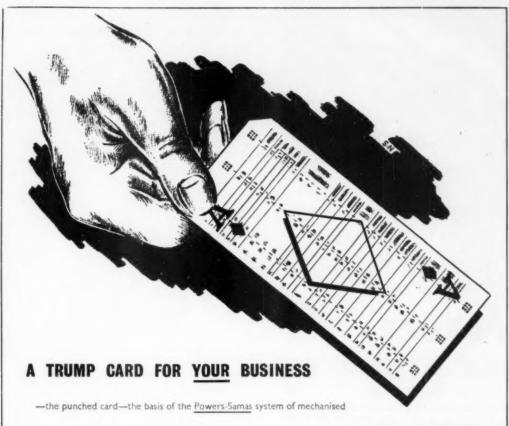
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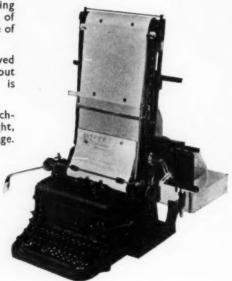
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COVER PHOTOGRAPH: The cover shows gyroscopes being tested in the testing room at the Brentford works of the Sperry Gyroscope Co. Ltd.

EBRUARY, 1950

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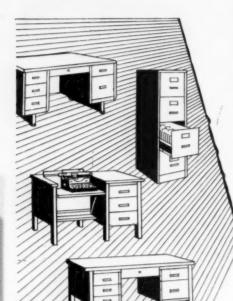


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The MARCH of BUSINESS

INCENTIVES FOR EXPORTERS

THE question of special incentives to exporters, now being studied by a number of organizaions, is a complex problem, raising difficulties both of economics and The exporter who of equity. witches goods from profitable softcurrency markets to unprofitable dollar marlets seems entitled to some subsidy. The chairman of Raleigh Industries pointed out recently that the failure to make any profit on goods exported to the United States was one of the reasons responsible for the drop in 1949 earnings. All the big motor nanufacturers are finding that production and distribution costs per car exported to the United States are higher than the price that they must charge in that market if they are to maintain their sales. Similar instances of a similar nature are increasing in other industries.

But if exporters are entitled to ncentives, are not manufacturers of components contained in the goods exported? And what about irms set up in the last few years specifically to produce goods itherto imported from dollar areas, such as petroleum chemicals and carbon black?

To advance difficulties of this ort as an excuse for rejecting all uggestions for incentives, however, ignores the fact that subsilization is already inexorably on he way.

RAIL STANDARDIZATION

THE contention of the Lemon Committee that standardizaion would be rendered easier by actionalization is underlined by the nnouncement of British Railways hat the types of locomotive used by them would be reduced from about 400 to about 12, and that designs are well advanced for the first two standard types, the first of which is expected to appear in 1951.

For a number of years prior to nationalization, the railway companies had, to a smaller degree, standardized components and complete units with a view to reducing the range of spare parts and simplifying repairs and services.

In view of the immense number and comparatively long life of the units involved, the Railway Executive's programme is necessarily of a long-term nature, but will give progressive savings as it proceeds. The general procedure to be adopted is for preliminary designs and proposals to be prepared for the Executive member, either by appointed policy committees or by individual officers appointed for the purpose. The view of the regional officers concerned will be obtained, and, after Railway Executive approval, preparation of the final designs will be remitted to one or other of the regional officers. During this last stage, use will be made of full-size mock-ups of portions of locomotives or vehicles for examination by interested parties, such as motive power, commercial or operating representatives, or by the trade unions, before the designs are finalized.

The Romans Set our Railway Standards

"The foreman on holiday, striding along the grass-grown top of Hadrian's Wall, with or picnicking family in its shade, may draw parallels with the past, seeing where it can give him advice and where it can show him warnings. And his workmate the technician can smile a little as, taking out his steel rule, he measures the distance between the ruts made in the pavement of fortress gateways by Roman chariot wheels. For that is standard throughout the Roman Empire too; it is the same in Pompeii and in Timgad as it is on the Scottish Border.

And it is exactly the same as the distance between the rails of a British Railway line."

From "Success", December 1949

STANDARDIZATION CRITICS

HOWEVER, the path to standardization is by no means roses all the way, and a good deal of opposition has yet to be broken down. An obvious field in which standardization must play an important part is the building supply industry. But a recent trade circular of the Distributors of Builders' Supplies Joint Council contains a "critical analysis" of the reports of the Lemon Committee and Crawford team summarized in the December issue of Business that is in fact a complete rebuttal of the need for standardization of any type. "Inasmuch as any standard of consumer goods discourages new initiative," says the author, "there appears to be no logical reason to limit these by establishing restrictive standards." And "Standardization as a policy applied to finished consumer goods is as vicious in its restrictive policy as are import restrictions.'

The circular also objects that standards of finished consumers goods are "imposed from the top,"